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CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~SECURITY INFORMATION  
REPORT

COUNTRY East Germany

TOPIC Military Information from Neuruppin

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED

24 September 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES 5 1. ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. On 31 August 1953, the post hospital in Neuruppin was occupied as previously by a division headquarters. Division commander was, as previously, Gds Colonel Potvankin (fnu); supply officer with the headquarters was Lieutenant Leynozikov (fnu) and supply officer of the post was Lieutenant Colonel Mamotenko (fnu).

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2. On 31 August, the Friedrich Frenz Kaserne was occupied to capacity by the unit previously observed there. On 28 August, an undetermined number of troops received instruction on four 122-mm field howitzers in the barracks yard. Trucks were seen nearby. The telegraph construction office adjoining the installation was commanded by one Zaitsev (fnu). Major Nikolav (fnu) was supply officer.

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3. On 31 August, the Fridericus Kaserne was occupied to capacity as previously. Gds Lieutenant Colonel Kovalev (fnu) was commanding officer and Gds Lieutenant Colonel Kovski (fnu) was supply officer. Gds Lieutenant Colonel Zukhikh (fnu) was commanding officer. Other officers determined in the installation included Captain Toropov (fnu), commanding officer of an unidentified unit; one Fedonenkov and one Shchbershin (both fnu), commanding officers of two units; and supply officers Lieutenant Colonels Kovalavkov and Zadoroshni (fnu) and Major Kodil'nikov (fnu).

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4. On 31 August, the See Kaserne was occupied to capacity by the unit previously stationed there. On 25 August, T-34/85 tanks were seen in the barracks yard. Lieutenant Colonel Stetsenko (fnu), supply officer was on leave in the USSR. Lieutenant Colonel Brantsevich (fnu) was commanding officer and Captain Zernonov (fnu) was supply officer.

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5. On 31 August, [ ] driving school courses were held as previously in the former highschool for girls. The courses were supervised by Major Kondokov (fnu).

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6. Lieutenant Colonel Chukukov (fnu) was no longer at the komendatura. It was rumored that he had been arrested because of his pro-German attitude.

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7. Between 25 August to 3 September, [ ] a printing office in the basement of the former revenue office on Karl Liebknecht Strasse, in which a division newspaper was printed. On the first floor was a conference room with sound-proof doors; and a 25-kW transmitting and receiving station was in another room. Only officers were seen in the building. On 26 August, jeep [ ] was seen in front of the building.

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8. On 1 September, the east section of the See Kaserne was occupied by about 800 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank and motor transport insignia. The four-story building near Karl Liebknecht Strasse was apparently used for instruction only. Land tables and instruction material on tanks and motor vehicles were seen in several rooms. About 20 officers were receiving instruction on a sand table. At about 9:30 a.m. on 25 August, trucks [ ] each occupied by 25 troops, left the installation. Tank [ ] and JSU-122 guns [ ] were seen in the barracks yard.

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9. At about 10 a.m. on 25 August, about 50 trucks towing a 120-mm mortar; 2 ambulances, 2 field kitchens and 1 radio truck left the west section of the barracks installation.

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10. On 24 August, the former post office on Junkersstrasse was occupied by a unit of about 160 troops, including some wearing red-bordered black epaulets with signal insignia. On 21 August, unusual activity was observed in the building. Numerous soldiers with earphones donned were seen on the floors. A telephone center was in one room, while the noise of a Morse instrument was heard from another room. Trucks [ ] were seen; armored scout car [ ] 15 other vehicles were in the vehicle sheds behind the main building. On 23 August, about 40 soldiers left the installation toward Altruppin.

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11. On 15 August, [ ] in three rooms of the former highschool for girls, instruction material, including transmissions of various types of motor vehicles, steering mechanisms and diagrams of various motor vehicles, wiring diagrams for the electric system of motor vehicles and cut-open models of batteries. At about 9:30 a.m., 100 troops came from the Friedrich Franz Kaserne, where they had been for breakfast, and subsequently went to the instruction rooms. The troops had previously been fed in the See Kaserne. About 20 trucks were in an open wooden shed near the gymnasium.

12. On 15 August, one of the buildings of the Friedrich Franz Kaserne was occupied by the unit of Major Dziurowski (fnu), with the soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. About 100 troops were seen drilling in the barracks yard and, on 13 August, about 70 soldiers

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cleaned 12 x 122-mm field howitzers in front of the garages. 30 soldiers practiced aiming on 3 x 37-mm AA guns, and 16 soldiers engaged in service of the piece drill on 1 x 57-mm AT gun. Twenty officers practiced with four commander's telescopes in the barracks yard.

[redacted] A radio truck, [redacted] were seen in the barracks area.

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13. Between 10 and 15 August, [redacted] ammunition was stored in two sheds on a dirt road which, in extension of Praesidentenstrasse, led to the Meschewiesen (meadows). Between the two sheds, [redacted] a one-story temporary building occupied by a guard detail of 20 soldiers [redacted] was alternately furnished by the Friedrich Franz Kaserne and the See Kaserne.

14. On 5 August, the Wulkow estate was occupied by about 300 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, mostly with motor transport insignia. About 25 x 132-mm rocket launchers were in the sheds of the estate. At about 11:45 a.m., about 45 troops left the estate toward Gentzrode.

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15. On 15 August, [redacted] about 30 ammunition bunkers, 30 x 25 x 3 x 5 meters, in the former ammunition depot at Wulkow. About 20 horses were seen in a stable. About 20 horse-drawn vehicles were in front of the stable. [redacted] Trucks [redacted] were in front of the entrance of the ammunition depot.

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16. Between 8 and 22 August, troops observed in the Friedrich Franz Kaserne received instruction on 122-mm field howitzers, heavy machine guns, AA guns and mortars; and engaged in training in firing. Three rocket launchers were in the barracks area. On 13 August, about 200 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets and steel helmets and carrying carbines and rolled blankets left the installation toward Fehrbellin. Trucks seen en route to and from the installation [redacted]

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17. Between 8 and 22 August, troops seen in the See Kaserne received instruction on two mortars and T-34 tank [redacted]. At about 11 a.m. on 10 August, T-34 tanks [redacted] left the installation toward Fehrbellin. On 17 August, a rocket launcher was seen near the lake. At about 10:30 p.m., five T-34 tanks entered the installation, coming from the direction of Gentzrode. On 19 August, T-34 tanks [redacted] left the installation toward Gentzrode. Motor vehicles [redacted] were [redacted] seen en route to and from the installation.

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18. Between 8 and 22 August, the former Lehrerseminar on Neustädter Strasse was occupied by troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with a badge, which [redacted] resembled a four-wheel cart. Motor vehicles seen en route to and from the installation included [redacted]

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19. At about 9 p.m., on 26 August, 10 trucks with pontoons, 1 truck carrying a motorboat and 1 truck with a crane were seen on Wittstocker Allee, en route toward Wittstock. At 11 p.m. on 27 August, 4 PA-64 armored scout cars, 10 motorcycles, 2 armored personnel carriers, 3 half-track armored personnel carriers and 1 truck towing a field kitchen were seen en route in the same direction. At about 3:30 p.m. on 29 August, 32 KC-777 motorcycles, 5 PA-64 armored scout cars, [redacted] 3 armored personnel carriers, 1 half-track [redacted] armored personnel carrier, 5 trucks towing 57-mm AT guns, 1 field kitchen, 5 trucks, occupied by troops; 3 trucks, occupied by officers [redacted] and truck [redacted] carrying gasoline [redacted] were seen en route toward Neuruppin, coming from the direction of Wittstock. 50X1-HUM
20. On 1 September, about 95 percent of the windows of the barracks installations in Neuruppin were lighted after nightfall. Between 24 August and 1 September, traffic of supply vehicles was normal. 50X1-HUM
21. On 14 August, the Fridericus Kaserne was occupied by 3,000 to 4,000 troops. Sentries observed wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. Between 12 and 14 August, [redacted] the troops practiced at the post training area near Storbeck-Gentzrode, along with the tanks from the See Kaserne. Some of the tanks were stationed in the training area, while a small number of them returned to the installation in the afternoon. [redacted] On 13 August, 15 to 20 medium tanks, [redacted] signal trucks [redacted] and truck [redacted] were seen about 150 to 200 meters west of the Neuruppin-Rechlin road. On 14 August, 5 to 6 medium tanks [redacted] engaged in firing toward northeast at practice targets showing the silhouette of a village, from the eastern edge of the woods on either side of the road to Wittstock, 1 kilometer south of Storbeck. Another 5 to 6 medium tanks [redacted] practiced driving in the terrain and, in the evening, T-43 tanks [redacted] were seen on the road to Wittstock. T-43 tank [redacted] left the Fridericus Kaserne in full speed in order to tow one of the two tanks to the installation. 50X1-HUM
22. On 14 August, the See Kaserne was occupied by 1,000 to 1,200 troops. Motor vehicles [redacted] were seen en route to and from the installation. 50X1-HUM
23. On 14 August, the Friedrich Franz Kaserne was occupied by about 1,000 to 1,200 troops. Sentries observed wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. On 13 August, about 120 troops received instruction on two 120-mm mortars and engaged in theoretical instruction and swimming. A truck [redacted] towing a 122-mm field howitzer, entered the installation. Trucks [redacted] were seen entering and leaving the installation. 50X1-HUM
24. On 14 August, the former high-school for girls was occupied by about 250 troops. On 13 August, about 200 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with motor transport insignia, were seen leaving the installation.

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25. On the afternoon of 19 August, a column of trucks [redacted] and sedans [redacted] was seen en route toward Neuruppin, coming from the direction of Fretzdorf-Raegelin. At about 5 p.m., T-34 tanks [redacted] went to the Fridericus Kaserne, coming from the direction of Fretzdorf-Raegelin. [redacted] vehicles and tanks had participated in an exercise in the Fretzdorf-Gadow area. All was quiet at the Gantzrode training area between 18 and 26 August. On 24 August, a T-34 tank was seen firing.

26. Between 2 and 14 August [redacted] exercises were held in the Hossow-Fretzdorf-Gadow area. All roads were blocked and guarded by sentries. Columns of 6 to 8 trucks were repeatedly seen en route between Neuruppin and Raegelin during the period under review. Trucks [redacted]

27. On 21 August, the Fridericus Kaserne was occupied to capacity by about 2,000 to 2,500 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia and black-bordered black epaulets. Four T-34/85 tanks, and 5 vehicles with pontoons were seen in the barracks area, and 10 pontoons were near the lock on Molchow Lake. A motorboat, occupied by two men, was seen on the lake near the lock. At about 2:30 p.m., sidecar motorcycles were entering the installation.

1. Comment. The information indicates that the bulk of the units of the 12th Gds Tank Div can be carried in their known quarters prior to 1 September. Information on intensified practices presumably including exercises of several days, of these units in the Gantzrode-Storbeck post training area and the area adjoining to the northwest correspond to previous information. The unidentified motor transport battalion of the division and a divisional ammunition depot are carried at Vulkow. However, the presence there of rocket launchers cannot be accounted for. They may belong to a depot of equipment sent from the USSR. [redacted] confirm in Neuruppin the following units until 31 August 1953:

[redacted] the 48th Gds Tank Regt; [redacted] the 49th Gds Tank Regt  
[redacted] the unidentified Gds Sig Bn; [redacted] the 59th Tank Bn  
En [redacted] the 226th Mor's Regt. [redacted] is mentioned for the first time. All officers mentioned are known in Neuruppin except for Lieutenants Beynozikov and Zaitsev; Major Nikolav, Gds Lieutenant Colonel Kovski, Lieutenant Colonel Prantsevich and Major Kondokov (all fnu).

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